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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**(Revised: with corrected construction schedule and addition of Secretary
MacDonald on the program)**

**Groundbreaking ceremony slated for Interstate 90 widening project in
Spokane Valley tomorrow**

Transportation Secretary MacDonald to kick off first project funded by the “Nickel
Package to begin construction

Tomorrow, Thursday, August 7, 2003, the Washington State Department of Transportation will hold a groundbreaking ceremony for the Interstate 90/Argonne Road to Sullivan Road freeway widening project. This is the first project funded under the “Nickel Package” enacted by the Legislature earlier this year. Secretary Of Transportation, Doug MacDonald will be on hand to get the project rolling.

The event is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. at 12102 E, Montgomery, in the yard of the WSDOT Pines Road Maintenance facility. This facility is located adjacent to I-90 just to the northwest of the Pines Road Interchange and is reached from the gate on Montgomery.

The \$34.2 million project will continue the process of widening Interstate 90 in the Spokane Valley. This construction is fully funded by the additional five-cent fuel tax that was a part of the new transportation package passed by the Legislature.

This five-mile project will add an additional through lane in each direction and improve safety features on I-90. In addition, Portland Cement Concrete Pavement will be used for the driving surface. This concrete roadway will be more resilient to wear caused by studded tires and the high traffic volumes in this area.

(More)

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I-90 Groundbreaking
August 6, 2003

The project should take about 18 months of construction to complete with a suspension of work each winter. The work should be done in early 2006.

Scarsella Brothers, Inc. of Seattle as the prime contractor on the project. Darrel McCallum is the project engineer for the WSDOT.

The contractor intends to begin work on Monday, August 11th with preliminary items. The first major order of work is to begin construction of temporary lanes to keep traffic moving while the project is underway. Traffic during construction will be maintained with two lanes in each direction during most of the project and delays to motorists should be minimized.

This project is an integral part of the Department's efforts to improve passenger and freight mobility in the Spokane area. With the "just-in-time" delivery strategy of major industrial and retail entities and the critical movement of perishable commodities, delays from congestion that are a result of inadequate highway capacity are an important component in the Washington economy.

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